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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Reports

Item#1

Asia's Rise, Western Anxiety: Leadership in a Tripolar World. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Brad Glosserman. February 17, 2011.

This is an age of anxiety for the West, according to the report. Economic insecurity and an accelerating pace of change have contributed to mounting uncertainty and a sense of increasing instability. But these are manifestations of another, more deeply rooted unease among Westerners: a feeling, a fear, that they are losing control.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://csis.org/files/publication/pac1112.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages].

Item#2

The Case against Raising the Social Security Tax Max. American Enterprise Institute. Andrew G. Biggs. March 22, 2011.

With Social Security deficits increasing and the US population aging, policymakers today face a choice. If they raise Social Security's maximum taxable wage--a common proposal--individuals will respond by working and saving less, which weakens the economy and does not fix the problem. Instead, we should reduce Social Security benefits for middle- and high-income earners to encourage more working and saving--and free up the government to focus on the daunting challenges of Medicare and Medicaid.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/RPO-2011-03-No-1-g.pdf> [PDF format, 7 pages].

Item#3

Economic Decline Widespread in 2009. Bureau of Economic Analysis. February 23, 2011.

Real U.S. GDP by metropolitan area declined 2.4 percent in 2009 after declining 0.4 percent in 2008, according to new statistics released today by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.¹ The economic decline was widespread as real GDP declined in 292 of 366 (80 percent) metropolitan statistical areas, led by national declines in durable-goods manufacturing, construction, and professional and business services.

Full Text:

http://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/regional/gdp_metro/2011/pdf/gdp_metro0211.pdf [PDF format, 26 pages].

Item#4

Foreign Aid: An Introduction to U.S. Programs and Policy. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Curt Tarnoff and Marian Leonardo Lawson. February 10, 2011.

Foreign assistance is a fundamental component of the international affairs budget and is viewed by many as an essential instrument of U.S. foreign policy. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, foreign aid has increasingly been associated with national security policy. U.S. foreign aid policy has developed around three primary rationales: national security, commercial interests, and humanitarian concerns. These broad rationales are the basis for the myriad objectives of U.S. assistance, including promoting economic growth, reducing poverty, improving governance, expanding access to health care and education, promoting stability in conflictive regions, promoting human rights, strengthening allies, and curbing illicit drug production and trafficking.

Full Text:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R40213.pdf> [PDF format, 37 pages].

Item#5

Internet "Kill Switch": Mapping Out Government's Proper Role in Cybersecurity. The Heritage Foundation. Paul Rosenzweig. February 22, 2011.

Once again, Congress has begun consideration of a comprehensive cybersecurity bill. Most of the provisions of the bill that eventually emerges from Congress will be uncontroversially good, better education is never wrong. But one aspect of the bill now making its way through the Senate deserves a great deal more public debate and consideration: the scope and extent of the government's role in defending the Internet from external threats and, in particular, the extent to which the government can order private-sector actors to take action, including disconnecting from the Internet, in times of cyber emergency.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2011/pdf/wm3166.pdf [PDF format, 2 pages].

Item#6

Japan's Earthquake Will Not Derail Global Recovery. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Uri Dadush and Bennett Stancil. March 18, 2011.

The Japanese earthquake is, first and foremost, an enormous human tragedy. Japan's earthquake precautions are among the most elaborate in the world, but the enormity of the suffering should prompt deep introspection in Japan and in exposed regions across the world about what more can be done to mitigate the effects of such disasters in the future. Although the human impact has been devastating, the author concludes, provided the nuclear incident at Fukushima is controlled, the economic effects of this disaster on the broader Japanese and global economies are likely to be confined and short-lived.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=43129&prog=zch,zgp&proj=zie>
[HTML format, various paging].

Item#7

Japan's Triple Disaster: Governance and the Earthquake, Tsunami and Nuclear Crises. Brookings Institution. Daniel Kaufmann. March 16, 2011.

In the wake of its triple disaster, Japan finds itself at the center of its most dramatic crisis since World War II. But governance shortcomings may be imperiling the response. In the coming months, the extent of Japan's disaster-preparedness will be fully scrutinized, as will its handling of the response, relief and reconstruction efforts. While it is early to provide a full analysis, it is possible to identify salient challenges that may warrant closer attention. In particular, the report explores Japan's governance in an international context and its impact on the country's crisis response.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0316_japan_disaster_kaufmann.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

Libya: When Bombs Fall and Allies Fall Apart. YaleGlobal. Dilip Hiro. March 21, 2011.

Protests in Libya against Muammar Gaddafi, in power for 42 years, began in mid-February. As Gaddafi's repression turned increasingly brutal, calls emerged within the Middle East, Europe and the U.S. for limited intervention, a no-fly zone to stop his forces from launching aerial attacks against civilians and rebels. Decision-makers were divided: Among the concerns was reinforcing the impression that the West is more intent on protecting oil in the Middle East than human rights. On 12 March, the Arab League, though divided, called for a no-fly zone over Libya, with conditions. On 17 March, the UN Security Council, with five abstentions, approved Resolution 1973, with an open-ended authorization "to take all necessary measures...to protect civilians." Disagreement over intervention and the limits show deep divisions within regional and global institutions and governments at every level, explains author Dilip Hiro.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/libya-bombs-fall-allies-fall-apart> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9

The March for Freedom in Libya. Brookings Institution. Ibrahim Sharqieh. February 22, 2011.

The people of Libya are closer than ever to freedom from the 42-year-long rule of the world's longest serving leader in the Arab world, Colonel Muammar Qaddafi. Though notorious for severely repressing opposition movements, the Libyan regime is no longer in a position to exercise the level of control it has enjoyed over the past four decades, as Libyans no longer fear their government and are now closer than ever to changing it. The Libyan people's direct confrontation with the Qaddafi dictatorship highlights the

many factors that have brought them closer than ever to their long-awaited goal, says the author.

[*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0222_libya_sharqieh.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

Item#10

Opposition to Nuclear Power Rises amid Japanese Crisis: Support for Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling Rebounds. Pew Center for the People & the Press. March 21, 2011.

Not surprisingly, public support for the increased use of nuclear power has declined amid the ongoing nuclear emergency in Japan. Currently, 39% say they favor promoting the increased use of nuclear power while 52% are opposed. Last October, 47% favored promoting the increased use of nuclear power and the same percentage (47%) was opposed. Opinion about expanding the use of nuclear power has fluctuated in recent years. However, the current measure matches a previous low in support for increased nuclear power recorded in September 2005 (39% favor, 53% oppose).

[*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

Full Text:

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1934/support-nuclear-power-japan-gas-prices-offshore-oil-gas-drilling> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#11

President Obama's Visit to a Rio Favela. Brookings Institution. Vanda Felbab-Brown. March 17, 2011.

A prominent media event during President Barack Obama's visit to Brazil will be an outing to one of Rio de Janeiro's favelas, a slum neighborhood often ridden by drug-gang violence. The *favelas*, containing a million people, a sixth of Rio's population, have been neglected for decades, even though they are scattered throughout the city, including in some of its prime sections. Inhabited by descendents of slaves and manual laborers brought to Rio for construction and other menial jobs, *favela* residents were not given an opportunity to break out of their condition of marginalization, poverty, and intense crime.

[*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0317_obama_favelas_felbabbrown.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

Item#12

Putting America Back to Work with Clean Energy. Center for American Progress. Richard Caperton and Adam Hersh. March 17, 2011.

Richard Caperton and Adam Hersh explain the benefits of investing in green jobs. Investing in green jobs will immediately address two of our country's most important challenges: lowering unemployment while improving our energy system. For these specific reasons alone, these investments would be worthwhile. But these investments will also significantly improve our economy in the long term, making

it more productive and efficient.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/03/pdf/green_jobs.pdf [PDF format, 7 pages].

Item#13

Reform, Not Repression: Lessons from the Deadly Unrest in Libya and Bahrain. Knowledge @ Wharton. February 23, 2011.

Invited by Bahrain in 2003 to advise on how to reform its labor markets, Peter Cappelli found that Bahrain had to stop relying on cheap, imported labor from South Asia and provide job opportunities instead to its underemployed Shiite community. "It was very clear the business community did not have the least bit of empathy toward them," Cappelli recalls. "I said, 'You have these young men; they're sitting on street corners. You have to do something about that, or what do you think these guys are going to do? They're going rise up at some point.'" Protests by Bahrain's Shiite majority against the country's ruling Sunni royal family began in early February, and have since taken a violent turn. The Gulf country and Libya are the latest Arab countries to experience popular unrest following the successful ouster of Tunisian President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali and Egypt's Hosni Mubarak. Protestors in Yemen have sustained calls for the removal of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and demonstrators are on the march in Morocco.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/arabic/articlepdf/2628.pdf?CFID=19715258&CFTOKEN=24443992&jsessionid=a8305bcc015228778c7041735c757a793770> [PDF format, 4 pages].

Item#14

Social Media in the Arab World: Leading up to the Uprisings of 2011. Center for International Media Assistance. Jeffrey Ghannam. February 3, 2011.

The report examines the impact of digital media on freedom of expression in the Middle East prior to the 2011 protests.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://cima.ned.org/sites/default/files/CIMA-Arab_Social_Media-Report_2.pdf [PDF format, 44 pages].

Item#15

Twitter Responds to Japan's Disaster. Pew Project for Excellence in Journalism. March 17, 2011.

Shortly after 12:46 am EST on February 11, when a massive 8.9 magnitude earthquake hit off the coast of northeast Japan, Twitter began to reverberate with posts about the catastrophe. The response to the earthquake illustrated the different ways in which Twitter functions as a social media tool. Initially, the site served as a way to get breaking information from a variety of official and unofficial sources,

including some eyewitness accounts. It also acted as an electronic bulletin board, passing on tips about everything from the location of bathrooms to ways of tracking loved ones.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.journalism.org/index_report/twitter_responds_japanese_disaster [HTML format, various paging].